

Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile

ALASKA

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Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

Focus Areas Funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiology and Surveillance - Core • Laboratory Capacity for Biologic Agents • Health Alert Network
Alaska has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the BIO Team with representatives of the Epidemiology, Laboratory, Nursing, and Community and Emergency Medical Services sections of the Division of Public Health, and representatives of the Medical Examiner's Office • Participating in the Anchorage Joint Municipal Emergency Preparedness Group and the Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee • Providing bioterrorism training for members of the Surveillance Outbreak Team • Assuring that reporting of potential bioterrorism agents and events is adequately addressed by the Alaska Administrative Code • Developing an algorithm for response to a potential bioterrorism incident • Developing a <i>Bioterrorism Resource Guide</i> with information about local, state, and federal bioterrorism preparedness efforts • Educating partners via articles submitted to <i>Alaska Medicine</i> and letters to all state health care organizations • Participating in a chemical drill with the Anchorage Fire Department and a table-top exercise conducted by the US Alaskan Command • Enhancing laboratory capacity by upgrading equipment and implementing new testing techniques • Developing a protocol for transport and referral of clinical specimens from a chemical event • Training laboratorians in the handling and shipment of biological specimens • Installing a secure communications link between the public health laboratory and the Emergency Operations Center • Developing chain of custody procedures and documentation • Establishing a public health bioterrorism web page • Assessing local IT and distance learning capacity • Replacing outdated and malfunctioning communications equipment and computers in local public health centers • Establishing and testing an emergency health alert system • Coordinating and sponsoring training courses for various aspects of bioterrorism preparedness and response
Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating state and local emergency and disaster response plans to include bioterrorism • Establishing formal, real-time communication links with the Division of Emergency Services • Assessing and improving notifiable disease reporting • Expanding laboratory procedures manual for level A and B protocols

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing capacity to perform level B and C lab testing • Educating and strengthening relationships with public and private partners • Training level A laboratorians, first responders, nurses, physicians, and others • Sponsoring a state bioterrorism conference in collaboration with APIC • Enhancing distance learning capacity throughout the state via local “mini grants” • Developing and maintaining bioterrorism web pages • Establishing an inventory of state training resources 								
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Key Emergency Contacts	<table> <tr> <td><u>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</u></td><td>(425) 487-4604</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>State Emergency Management Agency:</u></td><td>(907) 428-7039</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</u></td><td>(907) 258-5322</td></tr> <tr> <td><u>State Public Health Agency:</u></td><td>(907) 465-3090</td></tr> </table>	<u>Federal Emergency Management Agency:</u>	(425) 487-4604	<u>State Emergency Management Agency:</u>	(907) 428-7039	<u>Federal Bureau of Investigation:</u>	(907) 258-5322	<u>State Public Health Agency:</u>	(907) 465-3090
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Anecdotes									

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